

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A video recording apparatus comprising:

composite video image generating means for generating reduced signal video images, each comprising less than a complete screen by reducing the number of pixels to be displayed of each of a plurality of video images supplied from frames of each of a plurality of input data streams, a frame from only one of each of said plurality of input data streams being supplied at a time, and generating a composite video image by compositing the generated reduced video images in a substantially non-overlapping manner;

additional information generating means for generating additional information for each of the supplied video images;

dividing means for dividing a memory of said recording apparatus into a plurality of blocks, said plurality of blocks being equal to the plurality of video images supplied from each of the plurality of input data streams;

recording means for recording the composite video image and the additional information onto a predetermined recording medium in such a manner of maintaining the correspondence between each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image and each additional information; and

recording mode switching means for switching the recording from recording the composite video image to a full recording mode for recording one of said video images when a predetermined condition for said one of said video images is met.

2. (Original) The video recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the composite video image generating means performs a predetermined image compression to a video image obtained by combining the reduced video images and outputs the compressed video image as the composite video image.

3. (Original) The video recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined recording medium is a tape-shaped recording medium capable of recording digital video information.

4. (Original) The video recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the recording means records the composite video image and the additional information onto the same recording medium.

5. (Original) The video recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the supplied video images are video images intermittently captured by switching the video images outputted from video supply sources in a time division manner.

6. (Original) The video recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the additional information includes at least one of supply source information indicative of each of supply sources of the supplied video images, recording date and time information indicative of date and time on/at which each of the video images is recorded, frame division configuration information indicative of the arrangement and the maximum number of reduced video images in the composite video image, recording apparatus identification information for identifying the

video recording apparatus used for recording, and contents information regarding the contents of each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image.

7. (Original) The video recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the supplied video images are video images outputted from a plurality of video cameras.

8. (Original) The video recording apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the supplied video images are video images intermittently captured by switching the video images outputted from the video cameras in a time division manner.

9. (Original) The video recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the additional information includes at least one of camera identification information for identifying each of the video cameras, camera name information indicative of the name given to each of the video cameras, recording date and time information indicative of date and time on/at which each of the video images is recorded, frame division configuration information indicative of arrangement and the maximum number of the reduced video images in the composite video image, the recording apparatus identification information for identifying the video recording apparatus used for recording and contents information regarding the contents of each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image.

10. (Currently Amended) A centralized monitoring recording system comprising:
- a plurality of input devices for capturing and outputting video images;
 - composite video image generating means for generating reduced signal video images, each comprising less than a complete screen by reducing the number of pixels to be displayed of each of a plurality of video images supplied from frames of each of a plurality of input data streams, a frame from only one of each of said plurality of input data streams being supplied at a time, and generating a composite video image by compositing the generated reduced video images in a substantially non-overlapping manner;
 - additional information generating means for generating additional information for each of the supplied video images;
 - dividing means for dividing a memory of said monitoring recording system into a plurality of blocks, said plurality of blocks being equal to the plurality of video images supplied from each of the plurality of input data streams;
 - recording means for recording the composite video image and the additional information onto a predetermined recording medium in such a manner of maintaining the correspondence between each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image and each additional information; and
 - recording mode switching means for switching the recording from recording the composite video image to a full recording mode for recording one of said video images when a predetermined condition for said one of said video images is met.

11. (Currently Amended) A video recording method comprising the steps of:
generating reduced signal video images, each comprising less than a complete screen by reducing the number of pixels to be displayed of each of a plurality of video images supplied from frames of each of a plurality of input data streams, a frame from only one of each of said plurality of input data streams being supplied at a time and generating a composite video image by compositing the generated reduced video images in a substantially non-overlapping manner;

obtaining additional information for each of the supplied video images;

dividing a memory of a recording apparatus into a plurality of blocks, said plurality of blocks being equal to the plurality of video images supplied from each of the plurality of input data streams;

recording the composite video image and the additional information onto a predetermined recording medium using said recording apparatus in such a manner of maintaining the correspondence between each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image and each additional information; and

switching the recording from recording the composite video image to a full recording mode for recording one of said video images when a predetermined condition for said one of said video images is met.

12. (Original) The video recording method according to claim 11, wherein the step of generating the composite video image includes a step of performing a predetermined image compression to a video image obtained by combining the reduced video images and outputting the compressed video image as the composite video image.

13. (Original) The video recording method according to claim 11, wherein a tape-shaped recording medium capable of recording digital video information is used as the predetermined recording medium.

14. (Original) The video recording method according to claim 11, wherein the composite video image and the additional information are recorded onto the same recording medium in the recording step.

15. (Original) The video recording method according to claim 11, wherein the additional information includes at least one of supply source information indicative of each of supply sources of the supplied video images, recording date and time information indicative of date and time on/at which each of the video images is recorded, frame division configuration information indicative of the arrangement and the maximum number of reduced video images in the composite video image, recording apparatus identification information for identifying a video recording apparatus used for recording, and contents information regarding the contents of each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image.

16. (Original) The video recording method according to claim 11, wherein the supplied video images are video images outputted from a plurality of video cameras.

17. (Original) The video recording method according to claim 16, wherein the additional information includes at least one of camera identification information for identifying each of the video cameras, camera name information indicative of the name given to each of the video cameras, recording date and time information indicative of date and time on/at which each of the video images is recorded, frame division configuration information indicative of arrangement and the maximum number of the reduced video images in the composite video image, the recording apparatus identification information for identifying a video recording apparatus itself used for recording and contents information regarding the contents of each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image.

18. (Previously Presented) The video recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined condition is a notification by an abnormality sensor associated with said video image that detects an emergency.

19. (Previously Presented) The centralized monitoring recording system according to claim 10, wherein said predetermined condition is a notification by an abnormality sensor associated with said video image that detects an emergency.

20. (Previously Presented) The video recording method according to claim 11, wherein said predetermined condition is a notification by an abnormality sensor associated with said video image that detects an emergency.